



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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COMMERCIAL KING MACKEREL FISHERY CLOSED FOR VESSELS USING RUN-AROUND GILLNETS IN THE SOUTHERN FLORIDA WEST COAST SUBZONE

Beginning 6:00 a.m., local time, February 4, 2003, the commercial run-around gillnet fishery for Gulf group king mackerel in the southern Florida west coast subzone is closed. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) announced closure of this fishery after projecting that landings would reach the quota (520,312 pounds) on February 3, 2003. The gillnet fishery will remain closed in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) through 6:00 a.m., January 20, 2004, unless changed by a future notification in the Federal Register.

This action closes the commercial run-around gillnet fishery for Gulf group king mackerel in the EEZ of the southern Florida west coast subzone. The southern subzone is that part of the Florida west coast subzone which from November 1 through March 31 extends south and west from 25° 20.4' N. lat. (a line directly east from the Miami-Dade/Monroe County, Florida boundary) to 26° 19.8' N. lat. (a line directly west from the Lee/Collier County, Florida, boundary), i.e., the area off Collier and Monroe Counties. From April 1 through October 31, the southern subzone is that part of the Florida west coast subzone which is between 26° 19.8' N. lat. and 25° 48' N. lat. (a line directly west from the Monroe/Collier County, Florida, boundary), i.e., the area off Collier County (See figures below).

Closure of the commercial run-around gillnet fishery complies with the Fishery Management Plan for Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic and is necessary to protect and rebuild the Gulf group king mackerel resource. Current information on the status of the commercial fisheries for Gulf group king mackerel is provided on the reverse side of this bulletin.

During the closure, no one may fish for or possess king mackerel in or from the closed area when on board a vessel issued a Federal king mackerel permit with a gillnet endorsement. Also, during the closure, no one on board a vessel using or possessing a gillnet with a stretched-mesh size of 4.75 inches (12.1 cm) or larger in the southern Florida west coast subzone may fish for or possess Gulf group king mackerel.

GULF GROUP KING MACKEREL: SEASONAL BOUNDARIES OF FLORIDA SUBZONES

See page for maps

GULF GROUP KING MACKEREL: STATUS OF QUOTAS AND DAILY TRIP/LANDING LIMITS FOR COMMERCIAL FISHERIES FOR THE 2002/2003 FISHING YEAR

ZONE/SUBZONE	QUOTA (POUNDS, lb)	DAILY VESSEL TRIP LIMITS	DURATION OF TRIP LIMITS			STATUS	
						BEGINNING	CURRENT
EASTERN ZONE (Florida)	2,250,000						
East Coast Subzone ¹	1,040,625	50 Fish 75 Fish ²	Nov 1, 02 Feb 1, 03	until until	780,469 lb 1,040,625 lb	Opened: Nov 1, 02	Open: 75 Fish/Day
West Coast Subzones	1,209,375						
<u>Northern</u>							
Hook and Line	168,750	1,250 lb 0 lb	Jul 1, 02 Nov 30, 02	until until	126,563 lb Jul 1, 03	Opened: Jul 1, 02	Closed: Nov 30, 02
<u>Southern</u>							
Hook and Line	520,312	1,250 lb 500 lb	Jul 1, 02 390,234 lb	until until	390,234 lb 520,312 lb	Opened: Jul 1, 02	Open: 1,250 lb/day
Gillnet	520,312	25,000 lb 0 lb	Jan 21, 03 Feb 4, 03	until until	520,312 lb Jan 20, 04	Opened: Jan 21, 03 ³	Closed: Feb 4, 2003
WESTERN ZONE (Texas - Alabama)	1,010,00	3,000 lb 0 lb	Jul 1, 02 Oct 25, 02	until until	1,010,000 lb Jul 1, 03	Opened: Jul 1, 02	Closed: Oct 25, 02
Hook and Line							

¹ The Florida east coast subzone, located between the Flagler/Volusia and Miami-Dade/Monroe County boundaries, exists only from November 1 through March 31, when the Gulf migratory group of king mackerel extends into that area. From April 1 through October 31, king mackerel landed in that area belong to the Atlantic migratory group.

² Trip limits increased from 50 to 75 fish/day on February 1, 2003.

³ Fishery is closed until 6:00 a.m., January 20, 2004.

To obtain considerable recorded information about our missions, services, and management measures, call our toll free public service line at 1-866-570-5301. If the information you need is not available on that line, you can leave us a message and we'll get back to you within one business day.

To report violations of commercial trip limits or closures, contact the NMFS Law Enforcement Division at **727/570-5344 or 1-800/853-1964**. To obtain considerable recorded information about our missions, services, and management measures, call our toll free public service line at 1-866-570-5301. If the information you need is not available on that line, you can leave us a message and we'll get back to you within one business day. NOAA Fisheries is an agency of the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Additional information on southeastern fisheries may be found on the Web sites of the Gulf of Mexico (<http://www.gulfcouncil.org>) or South Atlantic (<http://www.safmc.nmfs.gov>) Fishery Management Council; they may be contacted by e-mail at gulf.council@noaa.gov or safmc@noaa.gov, respectively.